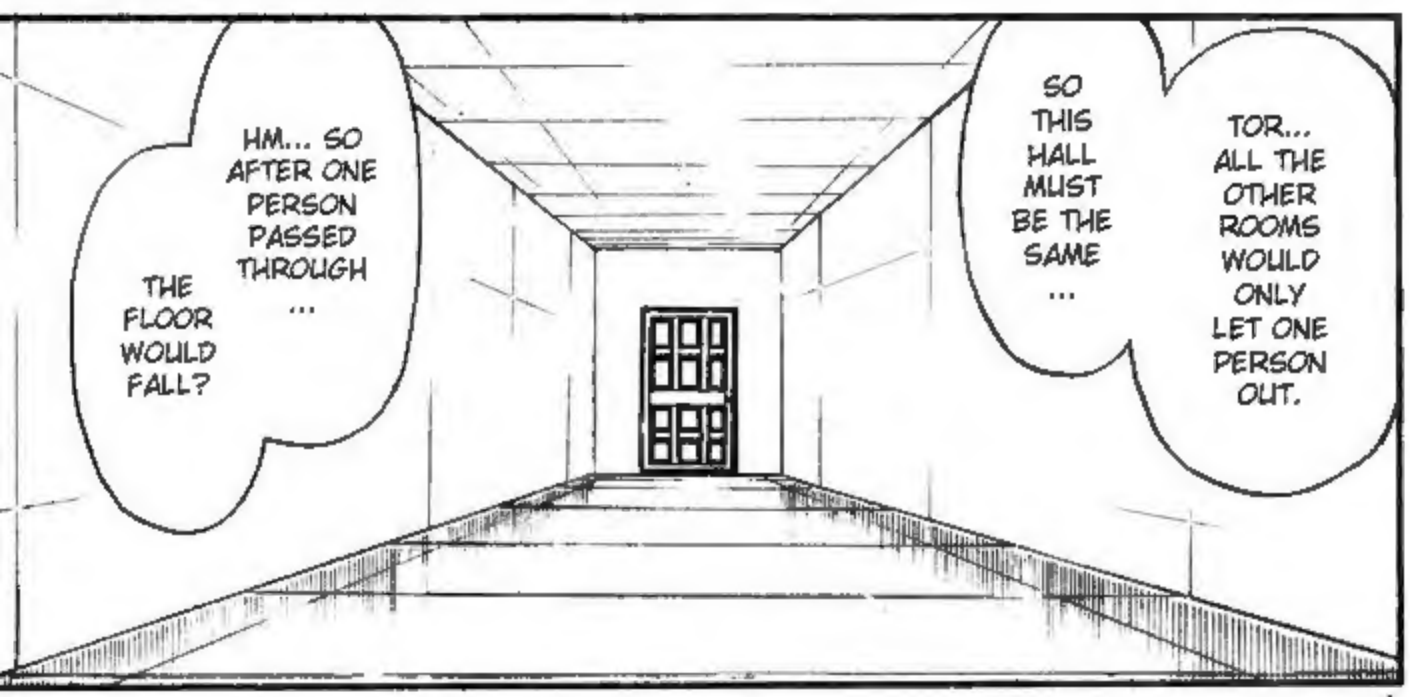
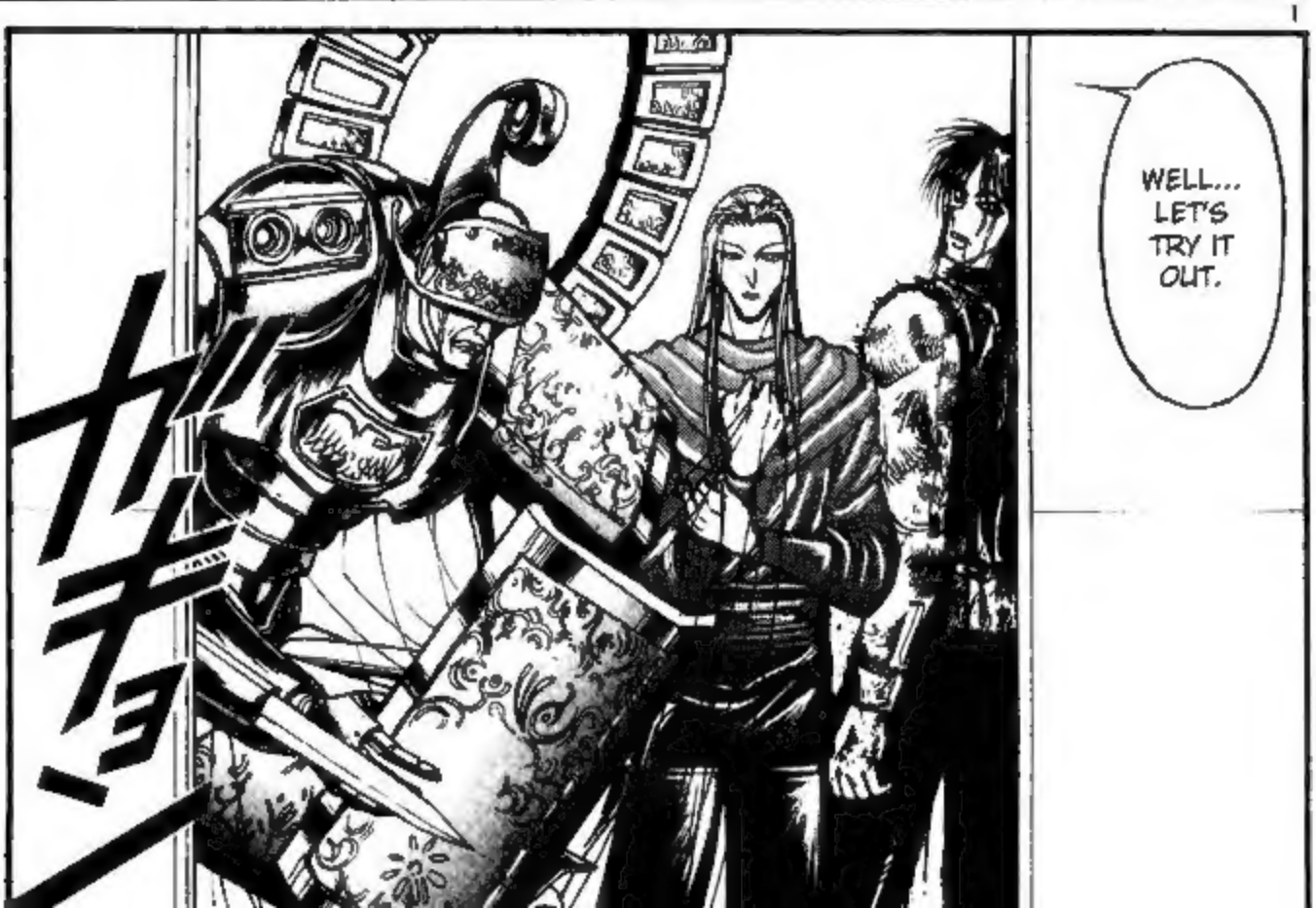
Act 29
Within and Without


TOR... ALL THE OTHER ROOMS WOULD ONLY LET ONE PERSON OUT.
SO THIS HALL MUST BE THE SAME ...
HM... SO AFTER ONE PERSON PASSED THROUGH ...
THE FLOOR WOULD FALL?



I'LL SEND MY MARIONETTE IN.
NOTHING HAPPENED ...

I SEE ...
.....
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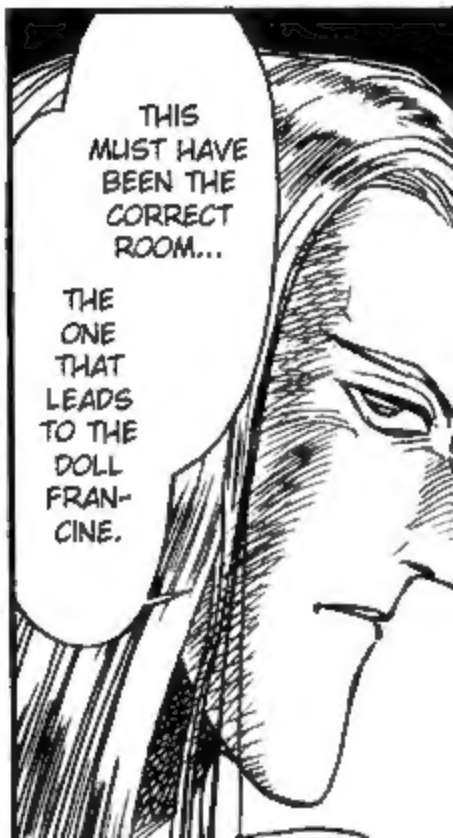
2

ALTHOUGH THEY PUT DOLLS IN THE ROOM TO GUARD IT ANYWAY ...
WELL, NARUMI, LET'S GO.
THE DOLL FRAN-CINE IS WAITING FOR US.

JEEZ, THOSE STUPID AUTO-MATA ...
SO THEY REALLY DID SET UP A WAY TO WIN ...?


THIS MUST HAVE BEEN THE CORRECT ROOM...
THE ONE THAT LEADS TO THE DOLL FRAN-CINE.

3

FORGET ABOUT THAT, TOR. THE REAL PROBLEM IS...
SORRY... LEGS JUST GOT A LITTLE TANGLED UP THERE ...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
HOW COME THIS ROOM... IS SO COLD ...?
4
AND THE LIGHTS'RE ALL DIM, TOO...
NARUMI, WHAT ...?

DMITRI ...
YES ...
C'MON, TOR...
ズ" ズ"
... YEAH... JUST... LEAVE IT TO ME...
5
YEAH... OPEN IT UP...
ARE YOU READY, NARUMI ?
BE UPON HIM ...
MAY GOD'S BLESSING ...
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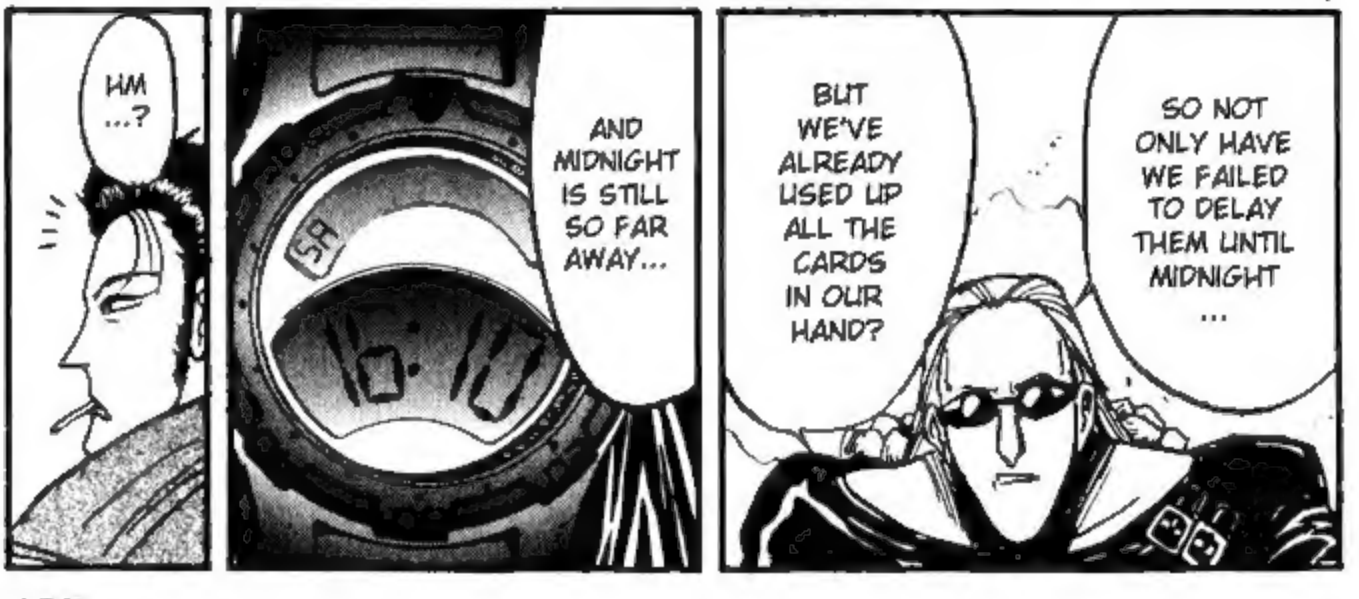
THIS MUST BE THE AFTER-MATH OF A DRAW ...
EVEN I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MANY DEAD BODIES AT ONCE...
... WHAT THE HELL ...?

7


HM ...?
AND MIDNIGHT IS STILL SO FAR AWAY...
BUT WE'VE ALREADY USED UP ALL THE CARDS IN OUR HAND?
SO NOT ONLY HAVE WE FAILED TO DELAY THEM UNTIL MIDNIGHT ...

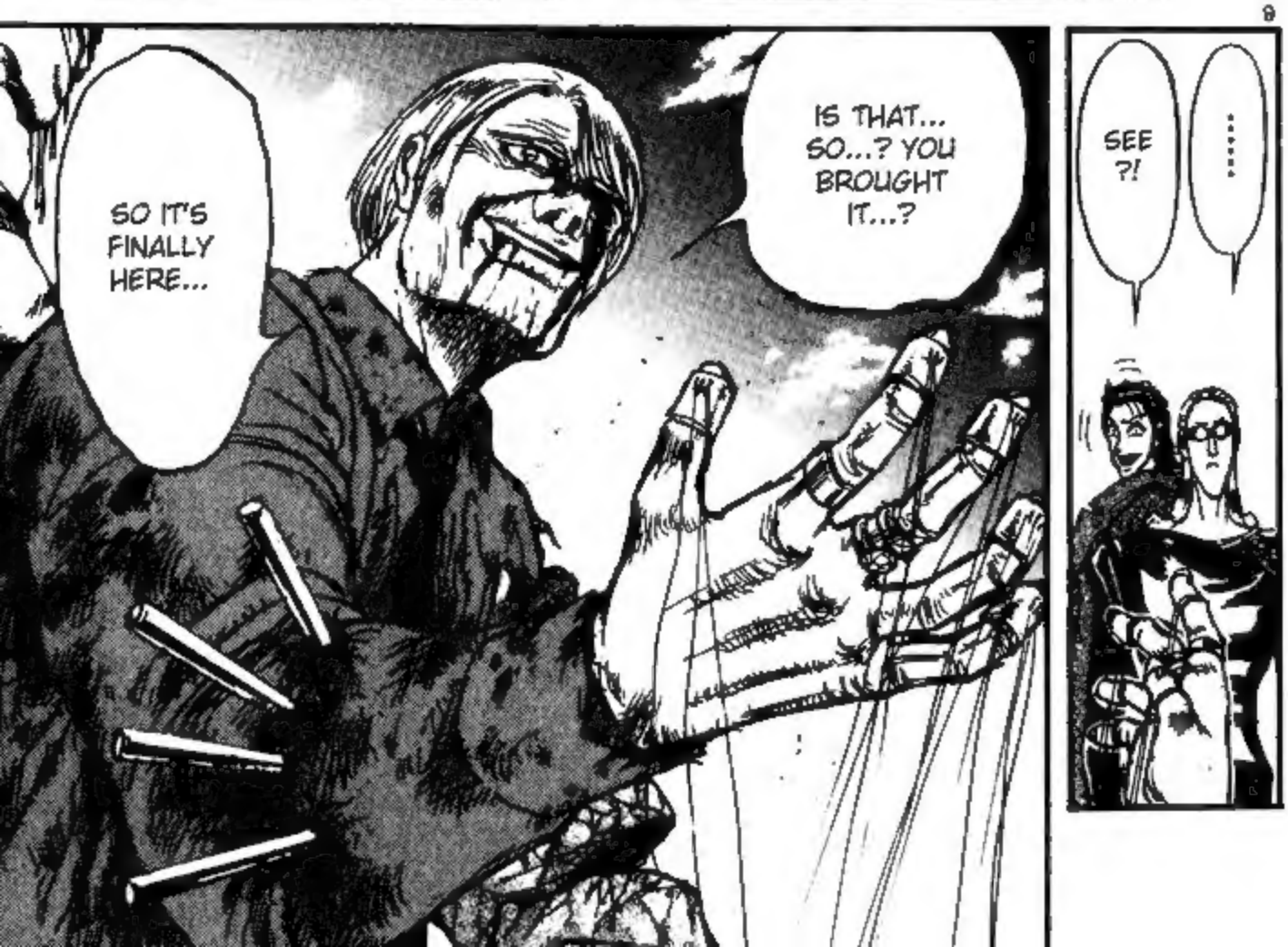
MON-
SIEUR
MICHEL!
YOU'RE...
THE SHIRO-
GANE-O...
GEORGE
LAROCHE
...?

BUT...
WE TOOK
THE AUTO-
MATA DOWN
WITH US...
JUST AS IT
SHOULD
BE...

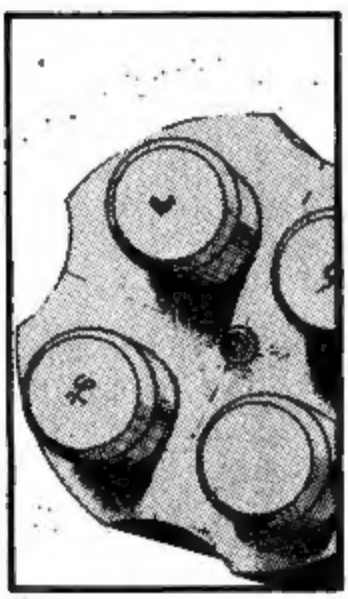
AS
YOU CAN
SEE...
WE WERE
DONE
IN...
MON-
SIEUR
...
YOW
...!

ALL THE
SHIROGANE
OUTSIDE
THE TENT...
WIPED OUT...

AND MONT-FAU-CON... BOTH GONE ...
CASTOR ...
OH, YEAH? WHAT'S *YOUR* JUDGMENT, THEN?
BE SILENT, ASHIHANA. SOMEONE LIKE YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY JUDGE THIS KIND OF BATTLE.
YEAH, I DON'T THINK ONE PUPPET WOULDA MADE MUCH DIFFERENCE HERE, GEORGE-SAN.
SIR, MY ASSIGNMENT WAS TO BRING MADAME LUCILLE'S MARIONETTE HERE... BUT...


SO IT'S FINALLY HERE...
IS THAT... SO...? YOU BROUGHT IT...?
SEE ?!
.....

IF WE HAVE *THAT* ...
WE... MAY BE ABLE TO WIN...!



THAT MARIONETTE IN THERE IS THAT DAMN SPECIAL?
WHAT ...?

I CAN TELL BY LOOKING AT YOU THAT YOU'RE A PUPPETEER ...

UM ...?
AND... YOU THERE.

YES, SIR ...!
HURRY... YOU MUST GET TO LUCILLE. SHE IS INSIDE THE TENT...

I DON'T KNOW THE PARTICULARS OF YOUR STORY, BUT...
I MUST ASK YOU TO WORK TOGETHER WITH GEORGE.
SORRY, OLD-TIMER ...
BUT I'M JUST AN ASSASSIN. A WAR LIKE THIS IS WAY OUTTA MY LEAGUE.
AND ASIDE FROM ANYTHING ELSE, I DON'T WORK PRO BONO. HEH HEH...
I SEE. WELL ...
HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN ...?
HOO... THAT'S A PRICY LOOKIN' RING. BUT...
KUK KUK

ASHI-HANA ...!!

WHA
...?!

ボトン
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WHAT IN...
DAMN ALTO-MATA ...!
ｶﾁｬﾚ
13
THIS IS CRAZY! IT'S NUTS!
WHAT IN THE HELL KINDA FIGHT IS THIS?!

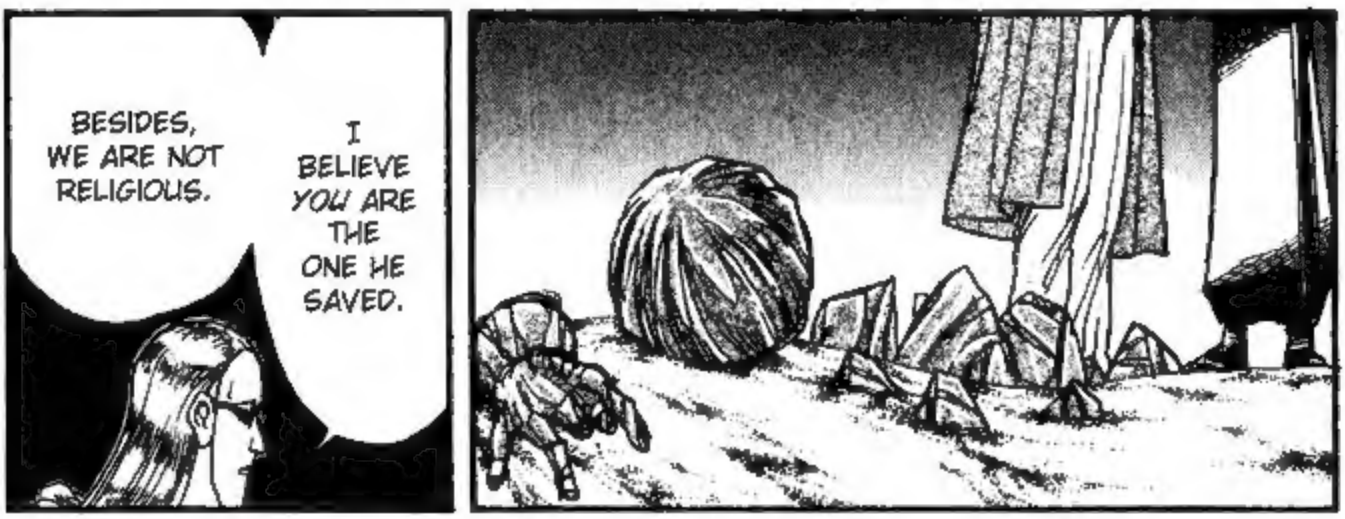
BUT I AIN'T HERE TO GET JERKED AROUND! DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE ...
IT'S LIKE A BAD JOKE!
FIGHTIN' ON THE SIDE OF MON-STERS
AND NOT GETTIN' SO MUCH AS A CENT IN RETURN!

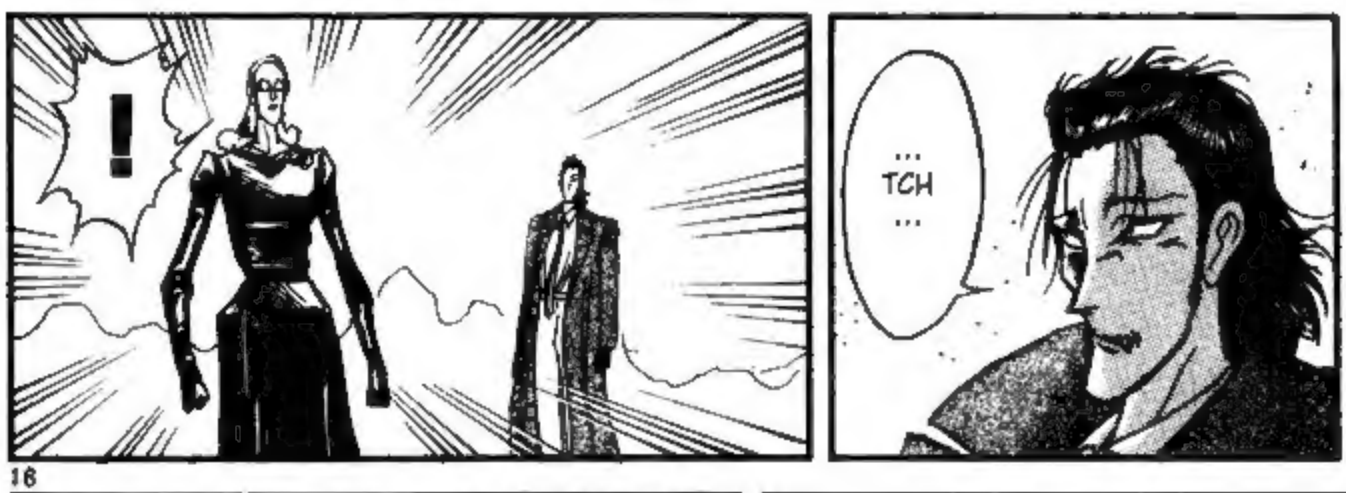
15

HMPH.
WELL DONE, ASHI-HANA!

OF TAKIN' ME LIGHTLY.

AINT'CHA GONNA PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO YOUR FRIEND? LAY HIS SOUL TO REST, OR SOMETHIN' ...?
HM?
BEFORE THAT...
LET'S GO.


BESIDES, WE ARE NOT RELIGIOUS.
I BELIEVE *YOU* ARE THE ONE HE SAVED.


!
... TCH ...

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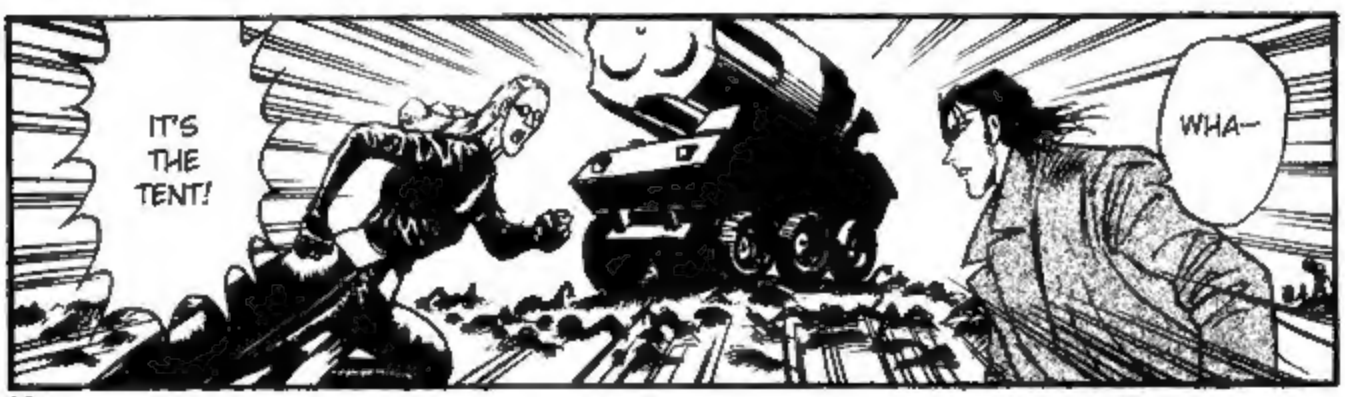
ボコ

HUH ...?!

KEH...! AND HERE WE ARE UNARMED ...
THIS MANY OF THE ALITOMATA MANAGED TO SURVIVE ...?

TAKE A LOOK AT WHERE THEY'RE HEADED!
ASHI-HANA, LET'S GO!
だ
WHAT THE HELL?! WE AIN'T WHAT THEY'RE AFTER?!


IT'S THE TENT!
WHA—

18

SOME-THING HAS STARTED TO HAPPEN INSIDE THE TENT!

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.